



# LIFETIME USE OF CIGARETTES

## BY NEW JERSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

### Statewide

According to the *New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey*, cigarettes were the substance used second most often by New Jersey adolescents in 2012. The statewide mean for lifetime use of cigarettes was 7.6%, meaning that around one-in-thirteen students reported having tried smoking at some point in their lives. This percentage reflects a decrease from the rates measured in 2010 and 2007 (9.5% and 9.4%, respectively).

### Countywide

In 2012, Hudson and Passaic counties had the highest lifetime prevalence of smoking at 13.3% each, followed closely by Cumberland County at 13.1%. The lowest lifetime rate was found in Morris County (1.6%). However, because of low response rates in some counties, caution must be used when interpreting county-level findings. Full results for lifetime cigarette use by county, sorted from high to low, can be found in Table 1 and a visual representation of county variation is available on the next page.

**Table 1**

County	%
Hudson	13.3%
Passaic	13.3%
Cumberland	13.1%
Gloucester	10.3%
Middlesex	9.4%
Camden	7.9%
Cape May	7.8%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
Burlington	7.2%
Ocean	7.1%
Mercer	6.9%
Bergen	6.8%
Salem	6.8%
Sussex	6.6%
Warren	6.1%
Atlantic	5.9%
Essex	5.0%
Somerset	4.7%
Monmouth	3.9%
Morris	1.6%
Hunterdon*	n/a
Union*	n/a

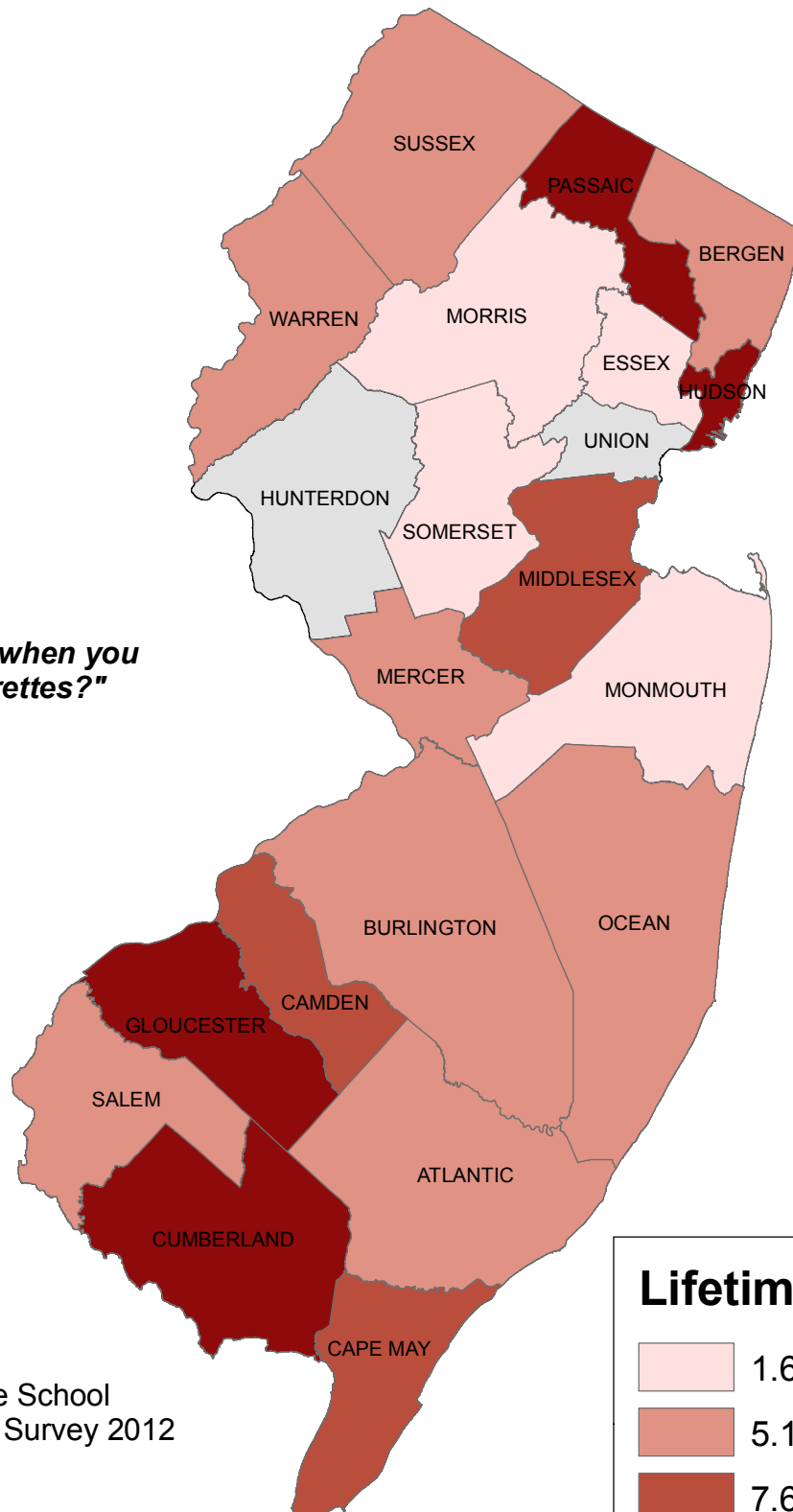
The 2012 New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey was commissioned by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to assess the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD), track antisocial behaviors, and document risk and protective factors among New Jersey youth. It was administered by the Bloustein Center for Survey Research (BCSR), at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The survey contained 6,544 respondents statewide, with county samples ranging between 105 and 403 respondents.

\*Please note that Hunterdon and Union Counties are not represented here because their sample sizes were too small to be considered reliable.

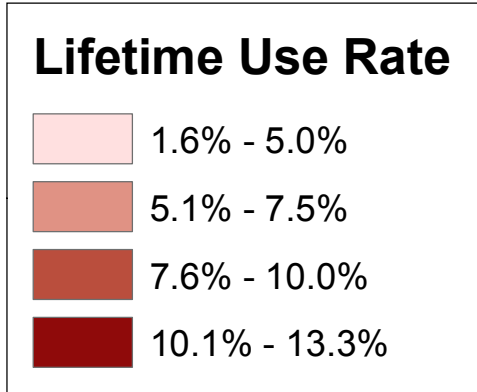
# LIFETIME USE OF CIGARETTES

## By New Jersey Middle School Students

**Min: 1.6%**  
**Max: 13.3%**  
**Mean: 7.6%**



*"How old were you when you first smoked cigarettes?"*



Source: New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey 2012

*\*Note: Hunterdon and Union County estimates are not depicted here due to small sample sizes*